

## BARKING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Barking village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 17th March 2022

### **Present**

Cllr M Tabberer (*Chair*), Cllr R Fellowes, Cllr S Butler, Cllr A Ross and Cllr M Bailey  
County Cllr K Oakes, District Cllr D Pratt

### **In Attendance**

Four members of the public  
Mrs L Rogers *Clerk*

### **Bpc109/21 Apologies**

There were no apologies

### **Bpc110/21 Declaration of Interests and Applications for Dispensation**

None declared

### **Bpc111/21 To Approve Minutes of the Meetings held on 20th January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting were approved by the councillors and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **Bpc112/21 Report from County Cllr Kay Oakes**

Council focuses on children's services, adult care and the environment, as budget confirmed Suffolk County Council has approved its financial budget for 2022-23, alongside its first-ever full Net Zero carbon budget. Both items were passed at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 17 February 2022, providing a focus on children's services, adult care and the environment. The council's budget will rise by 4.5% (from £598.2m to £625.4m), with the additional money generated by a 1.99% increase in council tax, a further 1.00% from the Adult Care Precept, and an increase in grants received from the Government. The Net Zero carbon budget will allow the council to measure its carbon emissions and monitor and evaluate the impact of decisions it makes. This will mean it can report each year on its progress, tracking its ambitions towards Net Zero. Council's commitment to further enhancing Suffolk's natural environment. It was announced on February 1st that Suffolk County Council will be doing even more for the county's natural environment. Suffolk County Council will be doing even more for the county's natural environment, as it confirms plans to enhance the biodiversity of at least 30% of its land and assets, by 2030. This means it will be progressing its work around managing highway trees, planting more hedgerow, nature-based flood management solutions, roadside nature reserves, and much more. The council already planted 100,000 trees last year, and is on course to plant another 100,000 this year. It has also put in around 20 kilometres of mixed species hedgerow. Residents urged to support Suffolk spectacular Suffolk is set to stage a host of exciting Jubilee celebrations during 2022 – bringing the county's communities together to mark this momentous milestone. Her Majesty The Queen will become the first ever British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, on Sunday 6 February, after 70 years of service. The unprecedented anniversary will be celebrated throughout the year, with a four-day UK bank holiday taking place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June to enable people to commemorate the occasion. Plans are already in place for a Festival of Suffolk – the county's biggest ever community event. This year-long spectacular will incorporate much-loved existing events, such as the Suffolk Show, alongside dedicated Jubilee celebrations, including a race day and

torch relay. The council is also supporting the Queen's Green Canopy in Suffolk, which aims to plant over 775,000 new trees in 2022 – one for each resident in the county. Almost a quarter of a million trees have been planted to date, with everyone urged to visit [suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy/](http://suffolk-lieutenancy.org.uk/queens-green-canopy/) and find out how they can 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' either directly or via one of the many organisations taking part in the scheme. In addition to using the Jubilee as an opportunity to create a greener county, a focus on health and wellbeing will also form an important part of the celebrations, with plans for themed park runs across Suffolk and a County Community Games tournament currently in development. Suffolk cements commitment to keeping its communities safe A new strategy was announced on February 7th outlining how Suffolk will address Violence Against Women and Girls has been published today. The strategy has been prepared collaboratively by the Safer Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) – consisting of representatives from Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, the police, Suffolk's Police & Crime Commissioner, community safety partnerships, health and probation services, the Norfolk & Suffolk Criminal Justice Board and Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership. All board members hold a shared ambition to tackle the incredibly important issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which includes, but is not limited to, domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking, coercive and controlling behaviour, and revenge porn – all of which have a devastating impact on victim-survivors, families, and communities. Good news for Suffolk Government gives the green light to negotiate a County Deal

Leader of Suffolk County Council, Councillor Matthew Hicks, on February 8th, explained why a new county deal is good for Suffolk, and why we don't need a new Mayor. He said: In August last year, I wrote about the efforts of Suffolk's Public Sector Leaders in working to secure from the Government a devolution deal for Suffolk. Last week, at the same time as the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper, we heard the news that Suffolk was successfully chosen as one of nine areas across the country to have been given the opportunity of negotiating a new County Deal. One of the questions I've heard a lot since the announcement is, what would a deal mean for Suffolk? To clarify we do not have a deal yet, and we have many more months of negotiations and discussions with Government ahead of us before we can look to finalise an actual deal. Some of the areas we included in our initial discussion centred around the development and roll out of Oyster style travel cards to increase the attractiveness and effectiveness of public transport and longer-term funding for major transport infrastructure upgrades, not just one-off funding. We also discussed with Government the opportunity of keeping all the apprenticeship levy funding raised in Suffolk in Suffolk, benefiting more people here. This could create the opportunity to work with the University, colleges, business and others to explore how this money could be better used. Negotiating the devolution of the powers necessary to develop more innovative projects to help deliver further action on Climate Change and make good on our promises around net zero by 2030 are also possible. Whilst I was delighted to read the other day that in a recent study Suffolk County Council was ranked as the third-best county council nationally for our response to the climate crisis, our ambitions in this area could be taken further still via a County Deal. What I can promise you, however, is that during the negotiations I will be pushing the Government for the maximum amount of benefit for the people of Suffolk. Finally, one of the areas related to this announcement which gained a lot of attention, especially from the media, was the potential for a directly elected Mayor of Suffolk, like the Metropolitan Mayors across the country in areas like the West Midlands. Let me say here and now, this is not something which Suffolk has asked for and importantly not something we need to secure a deal with Government. Whilst of course we recognise the work of such Mayors like Andy Street and Ben Houchen, this additional level of oversight is not needed for our deal given the strong levels of co-operation and leadership already found here in Suffolk. Do not forget, this opportunity is the result of an ongoing dialogue to promote Suffolk to central Government strongly supported

by our MPs and the partnership working with district and borough councils. Going forward this partnership working will continue alongside health partners, emergency services, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chamber of Commerce. I have always been ambitious for Suffolk, and I believe the opportunities within a County Deal would help unlock more potential in Suffolk and help us level up across the county; especially as we start to slowly escape the clutches of COVID. We will negotiate hard for a deal that will give us the tools we need to build back better, build back stronger and build back greener. Plans for a large solar farm are seriously flawed and can't be supported, say Suffolk County Council. On February 18th, Suffolk County Council published its concerns over plans for a large solar farm in West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. Cabinet papers released today state that plans for the 2,792-acre Sunnica solar farm project are unacceptable in their current form. The paper claims it is impossible for the Government to fully evaluate the significance and degree of the impact of the site because several key assessments are inadequate. A link to the papers can be found on the committee minutes page. Plans to build the Sunnica solar farm are currently with the Planning Inspectorate for examination. In time, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy who will, ultimately, be responsible for making the final decision. The recommendations made in this Cabinet paper, if agreed, will form part of Suffolk County Council's initial submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

#### **Bpc113/21 Report from District Cllr Dan Pratt**

**MSDC Annual Budget** - Mid Suffolk Council discussed the budget 2022/23 at the Council meeting held on 24th February. Council tax is to remain at the same rate so annual Mid Suffolk proportion of the council tax bill for a Band D property be £171.59. Sheltered housing charges and garage rents also remain frozen at 2021/22 levels.

**Mid Suffolk Electric Bus** - MSDC agreed on the proposal from the Green and Liberal Democrat group to fund two electric buses that will meet scheduled rural services that are not currently being met. The buses, funded with £820,000 from the growth and efficiency fund, will help residents to make 'zero-emissions' journeys to and from Stowmarket.

**Housing Revenue Account**- Mid Suffolk District Council tenants face a proposed increase of 4.1% to their rents, to cover inflationary pressures and allow investment in improving the quality of council homes. This means average weekly social rent would increase by £3.45 from £84.42 to £87.84. For affordable housing, weekly rents would increase by £4.99 from £121.34 to £126.33.

**Biodiversity Officer**- A biodiversity officer has been appointed, joining us in April, and will be overseeing the parish tree and wildflower scheme over the next 2 years. The officer will likely need to carry out a second resident consultation for the proposed wildflower scheme on 'the green' at St Mary's Close, Offton. There are a number of other parishes looking to create wildflower meadows but as yet there has been no local consultation by the parishes, or the schemes are at an early stages. Also, our 'cut and collect' mower has been purchased which will help us to improve conditions for wildflowers on council-owned land and verges.

**Neighbourhood Planning** - MSDC formally adopted the Needham Market Neighbourhood Plan as part of its Development Plan after Needham Market residents voted overwhelmingly in favour of the plan. The document carries statutory weight and will be used to inform planning decisions. This referendum comes at a time when the power of Neighbourhood Plans are being highlighted in other local news. Thurston Parish Council lodged a judicial review into the granting of planning permission for 210 new homes off Beyton Road. The allegation that the planning committee had been wrongly advised on the weight given to the Neighbourhood Plan, which had not allocated that site for development, was upheld by the High Court.

Thurston by-election - Following the departure of Cllr Wendy Turner there was a by-election for a new district councillor for the Thurston Ward. Green party candidate Austin Davies was elected and MSDC remains balanced with 17 members in each of the two groups.

#### **Bpc114/21 Public Forum**

Tye Green Hedge - The letter to residents was misleading as it said it would be cut under ten foot and it was cut to six feet. Residents should have been consulted. Most Tye Green residents are willing to contribute towards the cost of hedge cutting if cut to eight feet. SID – camera has not been on the road towards Ringshall yet and not on Willisham Road recently. Traffic speed not reduced on the Ringshall side of the Tye.

#### **Bpc115/21 Planning Matters**

Planning permission has been granted for - DC/21/06510 - Conversion and extension of outbuilding to form annexe at Ashburnham Farm, Needham Road, Barking and listed Building Consent granted for the same DC/21/06510

#### **Bpc116/21 Finance**

**a. Finance Report** - The Clerk reported on the financial movements since the previous meeting. Balance at 11th February 2022 was £51,117.32 – see appendix Decision - Payments totalling £2,818.19 were approved and cheques signed.

**b. Review of Financial Risk Assessment** - The councillors approved the Financial Risk Assessment document

**c. Donations** – It was agreed to make donations of a total of £750 to St Mary's church, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Headway and the Parish magazine. Councillors have told the clerk how they wish to divide the money between these. It was agreed to average the amounts to reach the donation sums.

St Mary's church £450; EAAA £110; Magazine £80; Headway £110

**d. Clerks annual pay award increase** - The increase of 1.75% was agreed

#### **Bpc117/21 Footway on The Tye**

The survey responses are showing that the majority of people agree to creating a footway along the Tye. (52 responses from 175 houses). Very reasonably some people are asking questions such as the length, which side of the road, surface. Suffolk County Council started a feasibility study generously funded by County Cllr Oakes. She will follow up to see when it will be available. It was agreed to distribute the survey to Barking Nursing Home as staff may travel by bus and need to walk to the nursing home from the bus stop.

#### **Bpc118/21 Tree Warden**

Richard Cage our Tree Warden has resigned. It was agreed to advertise for a new Tree Warden with details of the role. Advert to go in magazine and on the website. If anyone has concerns about any tree, please report it to the Parish Council. Clerk to contact the tree warden network for details

#### **Bpc119/21 Jubilee Fair**

The councillors agreed that posters advertising the Jubilee Fair can be placed on lamp post, walls and A boards four weeks before the event and to be removed as soon as possible after the event.

#### **Bpc120/21 Hedge at Tye Green**

The contractor was instructed to cut the hedge to six feet. Work was stopped. Some comments were made that upset the workman who did not come back to work the next day. It is not acceptable for the public to upset contractors. It is unacceptable behaviour. There is no consistent response from Tye green about what they want. There is no formal agreement about the height and management of the hedge. Not possible to use a tractor to cut the hedge due to the trees on the Tye so it has to be carried out manually. The Parish Council does not have the funds to have it cut manually at eight or ten feet. The Parish Council accept they didn't communicate the height. It was agreed to offer two options:

A full and unanimous agreement from all eight houses at Tye Green to take on full responsibility for cutting the hedge at a height they choose.

If this is not possible the Parish Council will maintain the hedge at six feet.

Clerk to write to all Tye Green residents and to check insurance and risk if they arrange cutting the hedge.

**Bpc121/21 Management of The Tye**

It was agreed to ask Suffolk Wildlife trust if they would manage the Tye if it was no longer under a DEFRA agreement.

**Bpc122/21 SID Report**

The SID camera currently needs recharging. Cllr Tabberer has fitted the bracket on the pole on the south side of the Tye but not yet out the camera on it. It is currently on Willisham Road. It continues to show 15,000 vehicles each way each week. Needs to n=be moved more frequently.

**Bpc123/21 Market & Barking Welfare Charity** – Cllr Butler has decided to step down – no other representatives are available

**Bpc124/21 Memorials in the Village**

Following the tree opposite The Fox falling in the recent storms, the councillors agreed to allow a former resident to plant a rowan tree there for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The councillors agreed to allow a bench to be placed outside the front of the village hall in memory of Siobhan Phillips at the applicants own cost.

Following a request for the Parish Council to create a memorial for John Dickerson it was agreed that it was normal procedure to respond to direct contact with a family. Could this be passed on to his family to make direct contact with the Parish Council and hopefully it would be looked on favourably.

**Bpc125/21 Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Bailey had nothing to report

**Bpc126/21 Easement**

The councillors noted the Secretary of State has agreed the application but there is an application to ask for judicial review.

**Bpc127/21 Village Beacon**

No news on the cost of moving the beacon near to the memorial. Cllr Bailey to chase.

**Bpc128/21 Reports from Councillors**

Cllr Butler reported an increasing problem with mole hills on the Tye. Clerk to obtain a quote to reduce the numbers

**Bpc129/21 Date of the Next Meeting**

Date of next parish council meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Chairman ..... Date .....

**Action Log Appendix**

1. Welcome Pack – Cllr Tabberer
2. Football Club – wait to hear from them
3. Village Beacon- move to Tye – Cllr bailey to ask Forge
4. Emergency Plan – Clerk to follow up with Emergency Planning Officer
5. Check assets in village – Cllr Tabberer to check

## Finance Report

### Income received since 20.1.22

MSDC	Cleansing grant	347.49
		<u>£347.49</u>

### Expenditure since 20.1.22 and to be agreed for payment

Gadd Brothers	Crown lift trees	1140.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
L Rogers	February wages	356.72	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	February expenses	120.00	LGA 1972
L Rogers	March wages	356.72	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	March expenses	80.04	LGA 1972
R Hedges-Quinn	Litter picking	299.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
L Rogers	Back pay 1.4.21-31.3.22	76.44	LGA 1972 s111
Suffolk County Council	Street lighting	389.27	Highways act 1980 s301
		<u>2,818.19</u>	

### Unpresented cheques

Gadd Brothers	Crown lift trees	1140.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
L Rogers	February wages	356.72	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	February expenses	120.00	LGA 1972
L Rogers	March wages	356.72	LGA 1972 s111
L Rogers	March expenses	80.04	LGA 1972
Tye Farm Contracting	October grass cut	504.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
Tye Farm Contracting	August grass cut	252.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
R Fellowes	Wreath & gift	92.00	LGA 1972 s111
R Hedges-Quinn	Litter picking	299.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss9-10
L Rogers	Back pay 1.4.21-31.3.22	76.44	LGA 1972 s111
Suffolk County Council	Street lighting	389.27	Highways act 1980 s301
		<u>3,666.19</u>	

### Bank Reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement Balance	Actual Balance	Credit/transfers not shown	Unpresented cheques
Community a/c	11.2.22	£19,410.29	£15,744.10		£3,666.19
Base reward a/c	11.2.22	£35,288.22	£35,288.22	0.00	0.00
Paths Partnership a/c	11.2.22	£83.65	£83.65	0.00	0.00
Active Saver	11.2.22	£1.35	£1.35		
		<u>£57,783.51</u>	<u>£51,117.32</u>		